

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (original) A method for processing medical documentation for a health care provider, comprising the steps of:
 - receiving a medical source document for a health care provider;
 - assigning the medical source document to a work queue defined for specific medical treatment types; and
 - enabling a medical coder to access the medical source document in the work queue through a computer network;
 - allowing the medical coder to electronically code the medical source document to create coded medical information; and
 - transmitting the coded medical information including encoded treatment procedures to the health care provider electronically.
2. (original) A method as in claim 1, further comprising the step of creating coded medical information by enabling the medical coder to extract information from the medical source document.
3. (original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting the coded medical information to the health care provider further comprises the step of transmitting the coded medical information to the health care provider via an electronic communication means selected from the group of electronic communication means consisting of a fax, secure file transfer protocol (FTP), a web browser and email.
4. (original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the step of enabling a medical coder to access the medical source document in the work queue through a computer network further comprises the step of enabling a medical coder to access the medical source document via a computer network that is a local area network (LAN), wide area network (WAN), or Internet.

5. (original) A method for processing medical documentation for a health care provider, comprising the steps of:
 - receiving a medical source document for a health care provider into a hosting server enabled to receive the medical source document;
 - enabling a medical coder to access the medical source document on the hosting server via a computer network coupled to the hosting server;
 - facilitating the electronic creation of coded medical information including encoded treatment procedures based on the medical source document as analyzed by the medical coder; and
 - transmitting the coded medical information to the health care provider.
6. (original) A method as in claim 5, further comprising the step of enabling the medical coder to access the medical source document on the hosting server via a network selected from the group of networks consisting of a local area network (LAN), wide area network (WAN), and Internet.
7. (original) A method as in claim 5, further comprising the step of distributing medical source documents to the medical coder using a plurality of categorized work pools.
8. (original) A method as in claim 7, further comprising the step of distributing medical source documents to the medical coder using a plurality of prioritized work queues.
9. (original) A method as in claim 5, wherein the step of enabling a medical coder to access the medical source document further comprises the step of distributing medical source documents to a plurality of medical coders via a computer network coupled to the hosting server to allow conversion of the medical source documents to coded medical information.

10. (original) A method for processing medical documentation for a health care provider, comprising the steps of:
 - receiving a medical source document for a health care provider into a hosting server enabled to receive the medical source document;
 - enabling a medical documentation handler to access the medical source document on the hosting server via a computer network coupled to the hosting server;
 - facilitating the electronic creation of processed medical data based on the medical source document analyzed by a medical documentation handler; and
 - transmitting the processed medical data to the health care provider.
11. (original) A method as in claim 10, further comprising the step of restricting the medical documentation handler from being able to save the medical source document on a local computer.
12. (original) A method as in claim 10 further comprising the step of retaining the medical source document on the hosting server while enabling the medical documentation handler to process the medical source document on a local computer.
13. (original) A method as in claim 10, wherein the step of facilitating the electronic creation of processed medical data further comprises the step of facilitating the electronic creation of coded medical information that includes coded medical billing information.
14. (original) A medical documentation processing system, comprising:
 - a plurality of electronic inputs configured to receive medical source documents for a health care provider;
 - a coding server, coupled to the electronic inputs, having electronic storage to store the medical source documents received; and

a plurality of coding queues within the coding server to which the medical source documents are assigned and through which a medical coder can access the medical source documents and create coded medical information from the medical source document;

a plurality of electronic output channels configured to transmit the coded medical information to the health care provider.

15. (original) A device in accordance with claim 14, wherein the electronic output channels are selected from the group of electronic output channels consisting of a fax, a secure file transfer protocol (FTP), a web browser and email.

16. (original) A device in accordance with claim 14, wherein medical source documents are assigned to the plurality of coding queues based on a priority value assigned to the medical source documents.

17. (original) A method for processing medical documentation for health care providers, comprising the steps of:

receiving a treatment record from a health care service provider;

converting the treatment record to a medical source document;

assigning the medical source document to a work queue defined for a specific medical specialty; and

enabling a medical coder to access the medical source document in the work queue through a computer network;

allowing the medical coder to code the medical source document which creates coded medical information; and

transmitting the coded medical information to the health care service provider.

18. (original) A method as in claim 17, wherein the step of converting the treatment record to a medical source document further comprises the step of transcribing the treatment record into a medical source document.

19. (original) A method as in claim 17, wherein the step of converting the treatment record to a medical source document further comprises the step of scanning the treatment record into a medical source document.
20. (original) A. method for processing electronic medical source documentation received for a health care provider, comprising the steps of:
- assigning the electronic medical source document to a work pool defined for specific medical treatment types;
 - prioritizing the electronic medical source document for further processing based on priority factors;
 - enabling a medical coder to access the electronic medical source document accompanied by a priority designation in the work queue through a computer network;
 - allowing the medical coder to code the medical source document to create coded medical information; and
 - transmitting the coded medical information to the health care provider.
21. (original) A method as in claim 20, wherein the step of assigning the electronic medical source document to a work pool defined for specific medical treatment types further comprises the step of assigning the electronic medical source document to a work pool defined for medical specialties or sub-specialties.
22. (original) A method as in claim 20, further comprising the step of dividing the electronic medical source documents into a plurality of work queues.
23. (original) A method as in claim 22, further comprising the step of prioritizing the electronic medical source document in a work queue based on the remaining turnaround time available.

24. (original) A method as in claim 22, further comprising the step of prioritizing the electronic medical source document in a work queue based on the percentage of coded medical information that is to be coded before a defined deadline.
25. (original) A method as in claim 22, further comprising the step of organizing the electronic medical source documents into batches in a work queue and then prioritizing the batches to allow for efficient coding.
26. (original) A method as in claim 22, further comprising the step of dividing the electronic medical source documents into priority electronic medical source documents from health care providers and non-priority electronic medical source documents from health care providers.
27. (original) A method as in claim 26, further comprising the step of dividing the electronic medical source documents into priority electronic medical source documents from health care providers assigned to the medical coder and priority electronic medical source documents from health care provides not assigned to the medical coder.
28. (original) A method as in claim 27, further comprising the step of dividing the electronic medical source documents into non-priority electronic medical source documents from health care providers assigned to the medical coder and non-priority electronic medical source documents from health care providers not assigned to the medical coder.
29. (original) A medical records processing system, comprising:
- a plurality of electronic inputs configured to receive a medical source document for a health care provider;
 - a hosting server, coupled to the electronic inputs, having electronic storage to store the medical source document received; and
 - a plurality of coding queues within the hosting server to which the medical source document is assigned based on a priority designation assigned to the medical source document;

a networked interface through which a medical coder can access the medical source document with the priority designation and create coded medical information from the medical source document;

a plurality of electronic output channels configured to transmit the coded medical information to the health care provider.

30. (original) A system as in claim 29, wherein the electronic medical source documents are divided into a plurality of work pools based on specific medical treatment types.
31. (original) A system as in claim 29, wherein the priority designation assigned to the medical source document is based on the remaining turnaround time available.
32. (original) A system as in claim 29, wherein the priority designation assigned to the medical source document is based on the percentage of coded medical information that are to be coded before a pre-defined deadline.
33. (original) A system as in claim 29, wherein electronic medical source documents are organized into batches in a work pool and the batches are prioritized to allow for efficient coding.
34. (original) A system as in claim 29, wherein the electronic medical source documents are divided into priority electronic medical source documents from health care providers and non-priority electronic medical source documents from health care providers.
35. (original) A system as in claim 34, wherein the electronic medical source documents are divided into priority electronic medical source documents from health care providers assigned to the medical coder and priority electronic medical source documents from health care providers not assigned to the medical coder.
36. (original) A system as in claim 35, wherein the electronic medical source documents are divided into non-priority electronic medical source documents from health care providers

assigned to the medical coder and non-priority electronic medical source documents from health care providers not assigned to the medical coder.

37-55 (canceled)